

## **AMENDMENT TO THE CLAIMS**

Please amend the claims as follows. This listing will replace all prior versions, and listing, of claims in the application. Claims 1, 14, 19, 21, and 26 have been amended.

### **Listing of Claims**

1. (Currently amended): A guidewire, comprising:

an elongate member comprising a proximal end, a main body having a first diameter, a distal end comprising an elongate tip having a second substantially uniform diameter, and a taper portion disposed directly between the main body and distal end and defining a first taper between the first and second diameters; and

a coating having at least a partial exterior with a second taper that approximates the first taper of the taper portion disposed on the distal end and comprising a flexible tip having a length axially extending beyond the distal end, the ratio of the length to the first diameter being greater than 3:1, the coating having a proximal portion and a distal portion, the proximal portion commencing within the taper portion of the elongate member.

2. (Previously presented): The guidewire of claim 1, further comprising a radiopaque marker disposed in the flexible tip, the radiopaque marker providing localized weight to the flexible tip to enhance flow direction properties of the flexible tip.

3. (Previously presented): The guidewire of claim 2, wherein a portion of the coating is disposed between the distal end of the elongate member and the radiopaque marker, the coating being a blend of polymers selected to achieve the desired flexibility and the portion of the coating being solid.

4. (Previously presented): The guidewire of claim 1, wherein the flexible tip comprises radiopaque material, the radiopaque material comprising an opacifying agent loaded into the flexible tip, a concentration of the opacifying agent being based upon the diameter of the elongate member.

5. (Previously presented): The guidewire of claim 1, wherein the coating comprises radiopaque material, the radiopaque material comprising an opacifying agent loaded into the coating, a concentration of the opacifying agent being based upon the diameter of the coating.
6. (Previously presented): The guidewire of claim 1, wherein the coating comprises an outer diameter approximately equal to or less than the first diameter.
7. (Previously presented): The guidewire of claim 1, wherein the flexible tip is longer than the elongate tip of the distal end.
8. (Original): The guidewire of claim 1, wherein the elongate member comprises one of stainless steel and nitinol.
9. (Previously presented): The guidewire of claim 1, further comprising a lubricious coating disposed directly on at least a portion of the main body.
10. (Original): The guidewire of claim 1, wherein the ratio of the length of the flexible tip to the first diameter is between 10:1 and 500:1.
11. (Original): The guidewire of claim 1, wherein the ratio of the length of the flexible tip to the first diameter is between 10:1 and 300:1.
12. (Original): The guidewire of claim 1, wherein the ratio of the length of the flexible tip to the first diameter is between 12:1 and 250:1.
13. (Original): The guidewire of claim 1, wherein the length of the flexible tip is greater than 3 mm.
14. (Currently amended): A guidewire, comprising:  
an elongate member comprising a proximal end, a main body having a first diameter, a distal end comprising an elongate tip having a first length and a uniform second diameter, and a taper portion disposed directly between the main body and distal end and defining a first taper between the first and second diameters;  
a coating disposed on the distal end, the coating having at least a partial exterior with a second taper that approximates the first taper of the taper portion and comprising a flexible tip

having a second length axially extending beyond the elongate tip, the second length being approximately equal to or greater than the first length, ~~the coating having an outer diameter approximately equal to or less than the first diameter of the main body.~~

15. (Original): The guidewire of claim 14, further comprising a radiopaque marker disposed in the flexible tip.

16. (Previously presented): The guidewire of claim 15, wherein a portion of the coating is disposed between the distal end and the radiopaque marker.

17. (Previously presented): The guidewire of claim 14, wherein the flexible tip comprises radiopaque material, the radiopaque material comprising an opacifying agent loaded into the coating, a concentration of the opacifying agent being based upon the diameter of the elongate member.

18. (Previously presented): The guidewire of claim 14, wherein the coating comprises radiopaque material, the radiopaque material comprising an opacifying agent loaded into the coating, a concentration of the opacifying agent being based upon the diameter of the coating.

19. (Currently amended): The guidewire of claim 14, wherein the coating is disposed on at least a portion of the taper portion main body.

20. (Previously presented): The guidewire of claim 14, wherein the flexible tip comprises a curvilinear portion that is J-shaped and has a rounded tip.

21. (Currently amended): A guidewire, comprising:

an elongate member comprising a proximal end, a main body having a first diameter, a distal end comprising an elongate tip having a uniform second diameter, and a taper portion disposed directly between the main body and distal end and defining a taper between the first and second diameters;

a polymer coating disposed on the distal end and commencing within a portion of the taper portion, the polymer coating comprising a flexible tip having a length axially extending beyond the distal end, ~~the ratio of the length to the first diameter of the flexible tip being greater than 3:1 a longitudinal length of the elongate tip;~~

a radiopaque marker disposed in the flexible tip to provide localized weight within the flexible tip and spaced from the distal end of the elongate member; and  
a lubricious coating disposed on at least a portion of the main body.

22. (Original): The guidewire of claim 21, wherein the ratio of the length of the flexible tip to the first diameter is between 10:1 and 500:1.

23. (Original): The guidewire of claim 21, wherein the ratio of the length of the flexible tip to the first diameter is between 10:1 and 300:1.

24. (Original): The guidewire of claim 21, wherein the ratio of the length of the flexible tip to the first diameter is between 12:1 and 250:1.

25. (Original): The guidewire of claim 21, wherein the length of the flexible tip is greater than 3 mm.

26. (Currently amended): A guidewire comprising:

an elongate member comprising proximal and distal ends, the proximal end having a first outer diameter and the distal end having a uniform second outer diameter; and

a coating disposed on the distal end of the elongate member, the coating comprising a flexible tip extending beyond the distal end and encompassing a solid member, the solid member being supported solely by the coating and spaced from the distal end to provide localized weight within the coating, the coating having a second outer diameter that is approximately equal to or less than the first outer diameter the flexible tip being approximately equal to or greater than a longitudinal length of the distal end.

27. (Original): The guidewire according to claim 26, wherein the solid member comprises a radiopaque marker.

28. (Previously presented): The guidewire according to claim 26, wherein a portion of the coating is disposed between the distal end of the elongate member and the solid member, the portion of the coating being solid.